



## **8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS**

Geneva, 03.-05. September 2018

### **Statement on International Cooperation and Assistance by Germany**

Mr. President,

Let me say a few words about cooperation and assistance. The efforts of all States Parties to the Convention are remarkable and cooperation as well as assistance is necessary to reach our shared ambition of a world free of cluster munitions.

I would also like to highlight that Germany is one of the largest contributors to mine action – both in the context of humanitarian assistance and stabilization.

In 2017, Germany has been able to double its funding for the second year in a row. We have contributed 75 million Euros to mine action projects in 14 countries and regions around the world – a record contribution for Germany.

Humanitarian mine action is crucial for saving the “lives and limbs” of the affected population, ensuring access for humanitarian aid and allowing the safe and dignified return of refugees and IDPs.

We would also like to thank our implementing partners for their impressive commitment: Our projects are implemented by NGOs, UN organisations and the ICRC. Many of their staff risk their lives every day to rid the world of cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

Another important aspect of our support is the development of practical tools and guidelines that can guide States Parties in their efforts to fulfil commitments under this Convention. The work of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is essential for progress in this regard and we support its work both financially and technically.

Since data on the situation in individual countries and their needs is necessary for the provision of effective aid, we made continue to provide financial support for the publication of the CMC’s *Cluster Munition Monitor*.

We are ready to continue both our efforts to strengthen the Convention on Cluster Munitions and our financial support for clearing cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

Thank you, Mr. President.